Committee No 1

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL, DULY ASSEMBLED IN COUNCIL.

THE COMMITTEE ON ROADS AND IMPROVEMENTS, RESPECTFULLY REPORT,

That among the numerous incidents to which they have had an opportunity of turning their attention, none have appeared to them of greater importance than the subject at present about to be submitted to the Council, it being intimately and inseparably connected with the improvement of Canada, and highly interesting to every enlightened mind; that is, the providing more effectually for the facility of commerce, and thereby securing the advantages which the situation of the country holds out to the agricultural and commercial community of this vast portion of the British Empire

This great object cannot fail to imbue the minds of those, who will take the subject into their serious consideration, with the vast resources of this extensive and extending country, whether viewing them in the various, abundant and augmenting productions of its soil, or in its large lakes, rivers and tributary streams, bearing on the bosom of their waters, a numerous and multifarious craft, winding its way towards the Great Depôt for shipment to foreign ports, and returning heavily laden with the productions of other soils.

The advantages which Canada possesses for commercial enterprise, may be extended beyond its own boundary, far into the interior States of the Union, for it must be considered, that the greatest part of the Trade of North America has but two natural outlets to the Ocean, the Mississipi and the St. Lawrence. Although each may have its peculiar advantages, the road to the European Markets through the latter would be irresistibly inviting, were its conveniences and advantages improved, for, where man's interest leads, his inclination urges him to follow. Your Committee cannot too strongly recommend to the Council and people of Canada generally, the necessity of applying themselves with that diligence and determination, which the prosperity of the country requires at their hands, to accelerate and invite the increasing trade to pass through the St. Lawrence; they would also impress upon their minds, that the surest, if not the only way by which this great object can be obtained, is to have the accommodation for Trade and Commerce superior, and the the transport cheaper, than are to be found elsewhere.

Your Committee cannot but view with feelings of pride and satisfaction, in common with their fellow citizens, the increased accommodation provided for shipping by the improvement made in their port, and the corresponding increase of vessels since it was made; yet, with that view of the extensive resources of the country which they have but partially and feebly endeavoured to point out, they are convinced that much more accommodation for shipping, greater facilities for transhipment, and security for goods, wares and merchandize, ought to be provided within the City of Montreal, than the present port affords, or can be made to afford, for be it remembered, that even this summer, vessels from sea have lain in port near three weeks, before they were able to procure a berth for unloading. The great expense of such detention and the numerous other impediments to which commerce is at present subject, would far exceed the interest of a capital, sufficient to make Montreal one of the most commodious ports on the Continent of America, and second for convenience, not even to the famous docks of Liverpool.

Under these considerations, and with the view to meet the improvements in progress, anticipated and required, your Committee have directed their attention to the subject, and from the instructions given, the Surveyor has prepared a plan of a ~~Canal, Docks, and Basin, and Stores connected therewith~~; which they most respectfully submit to the Council, hoping that the same will meet the views and approval of the Board, and their fellow citizens in general. Your Committee would beg leave to notice, that this plan not only combines the great advantages and accommodation of an extensive port, but also of Dry Docks for the repair of shipping to any required extent, as well as hydraulic power to almost any amount.

Ship Canal from below the Current St. Mary to Docks and stores connected therewith in the centre of the City of Montreal and a Canal for lake and river craft. thence upwards.

Your Committee beg also to notice that the *projection* of this plan which they have now the honor to submit to the Council, has met the approbation of His Honor the Mayor, the Chairman of the Board of Trade, and of several intelligent and enterprising merchants who have examined it, and that it was also most favourably regarded by the late lamented Governor General, Lord Sydenham.

In bringing this matter before the Council, your Committee would most strenuously recommend, that not only the subject which they have the honor to submit, but any other measure, which might tend to increase the facilities of Trade and Commerce, is worthy of the attention of every enlightened and enterprising man in the country; and let it not be said that, while the production and resources of the country are abundant, and our merchandize wafted where we please, while the productions of other soils necessarily come to us, we shut our eyes and ports against our own interest and that of the country, by neglecting to acquire the means of sending your goods to other markets on the cheapest terms, and to provide a sufficient, safe, and commodious harbour, and the means of coming to and going from it with ease, safety and despatch.

All of which is nevertheless respectfully submitted.

(Signed) JULES QUESNEL, *Chairman*,
O. BERTHELET,
THOMAS PHILLIPS,
JOHN REDPATH,
J. MATHEWSON.

Committee Room,
City Hall, 2nd Nov., 1841.